

A Passion for the Arts by Katie Oliver

Students at Kinry Road are no strangers to the fine and performing arts. Through workshops, extra-curricular activities, and ensembles, students are provided with many opportunities to experience the wonder of the arts. The end goals - to enrich each child's education through a variety of activities that they might never have experienced otherwise and to help students make connections between their interests and the world outside of Kinry.

Media Club

The Kinry Road Media Club has been working with Green Screen Technology to create two media projects. The first project was videoing a student reading the book What Does It Mean to Be Kind. The group is putting the finishing touches on the video. They learned how to set up the green screen, create and hold cue cards for the reader, and use the DoInk app to place the illustrations from the book in the background.

The second project involves Stikbots and the Stikbot app. Students select a Stickbot character and use the app's stop-motion animation program to create short video clips. The green screen is also used in this project so students can select any background and students are beginning to learn how to develop and add sound effects.

Visual Olympics

Kinry Road Elementary school has two teams of 6th graders participating in Olympics of the Visual Arts, a statewide competition.

One group of students are working on a graphic arts project. Those students are creating new face cards for a deck of cards based on famous artists, art movements, and their work. They have been looking at the work of many artists and emulating their styles and working on portraits of those artists. They are using a variety of media including paint, color pencil, oil pastels, and printmaking.

Another group of students is working on a sculpture project. Their assignment was to create a sculpture using soft materials. They have currently combined fabric, foam, Styrofoam, and batting to build a city that is in a half dome. The dome is one half night sky and one-half daytime. They also plan on turning the dome into a face using the sun and moon for eyes.

The students have put a lot of time and research into their group projects. Their work will be compared to the work of elementary students from other districts who were also given the same topic and assignments for which to come up with a solution. These works of art will be judged in Saratoga Springs at the City Center on April 4.

Chorus

Students in grades four through six participate in vocal ensembles under the direction of Mr. Christopher Weingert. Not only do students learn a variety of vocal techniques and celebrate their love of singing, but they perform for the community throughout the year.

Band

Kinry bands are busily preparing for their spring concerts. The Kinry 6th Grade Band will be performing at the May 15th Band Pyramid Concert at RCK with the Oak Grove 6th Grade Band, the Wappingers Junior High School 7th Grade Band, and the RCK Concert Band.

The 5th Grade Band will be performing at the Kinry Road Spring Concert, Thursday, May 16 at RCK. Additionally, many band students are working hard on their solos and will be performing at the New York State Music Association's Spring Evaluation Festival at George Fischer Middle School in Carmel on May 10th and 11th.

Orchestra

Orchestra is busy preparing for their spring performances. Fifth Grade Orchestra just started their grand finale piece "Sailor Song," and 6th Grade Orchestra had six members attend DCMEA Elementary All-County this year! String students are preparing for NYSSMA Solo Festival and Festival of the Arts.

Drama Club

Musicals are back at Kinry! The Kinry Drama Club is excited to present "Mary Poppins Jr." on May 9th and 10th. The cast of fifth- and sixth-grade students have been rehearsing 3-4 days a week. The set crew has designed and is in the process of building the sets. The publicity team will soon be hard at work promoting this fantastic opportunity. One thing is certain, it takes a team to make a successful performance, and this is sure to be a memorable experience for cast, crew, and community members alike.

Eco Arts and Crafts

Students with a knack for crafting and a love of reusing materials gather monthly to create something special out of what some might consider trash. Past projects include cards and a leaf painting for the military, holiday-themed items, and various other crafts.

H.A.B.L.A.

Several students at Kinry have embraced the opportunity to learn a new language. Meeting weekly for a large portion of the year, they learn both academic and conversational Spanish.

Community Experiences

Celebrating the Arts wouldn't be complete without experiences in the local community. It is crucial that students have the opportunity to learn from those around them, particularly older students and community members.

Third- and fourth-grade students met with Jonathan Kruk, a local storyteller who incorporates a love of history into his stories to share with children. Each class also participated in a separate workshop with Kruk as they learned to research world history (grade 3) and Hudson Valley history (grade 4), develop perspectives on specific historical events, and practice their storytelling skills.

Fifth graders have had several opportunities to experience music, dance, and theater in the area, creating excitement amongst the students. They visited the Bardavon in December and March to see performances of *The Nutcracker* and the Hudson Valley Philharmonic respectively. Students also had the opportunity to see a sneak peek performance of "The Sound of Music" at Roy C. Ketcham High School joining many of the districts' fifth-graders.

Though Kinry may be smaller in number than several of its surrounding schools, it makes up for it with enthusiasm and enrichment opportunities. It encourages the growth of its students in all areas, such as the arts, where the dreamers can dream, the dancers can dance, and the sky's the limit.